

106. *Chamæa fasciata intermedia* Grinnell or *rufula* Ridgway. INTERMEDIATE WREN-TIT (OR RUDDY WREN-TIT).—Pacific Grove and Monterey.

107. *Psaltriparus minimus minimus*. BUSH-TIT.—Pacific Grove (breeding, young).

108. *Psaltriparus minimus californicus*. SACRAMENTO BUSH-TIT.—Firebaugh (breeding), Visalia.

109. *Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*. RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH.—Visalia and Pacific Grove.

110. *Hylocichla aonalaschkæ slevini*. MONTEREY HERMIT THRUSH.—Pacific Grove.

111. *Sialia mexicana occidentalis*. WESTERN BLUEBIRD.—Porterville, Lebec, Gorman Station, Pacific Grove, etc.

NOTES ON BIRDS OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO.

BY JOHN T. SHARPLESS HUNN.

THE following field notes were recorded within a ten miles radius, taking Silver City as the center. The period of time covered was between the first of September and the sixth of May, during the years 1903-4 and 1904-5. Although I would be absent part of the time in one year, I always managed to be present during this interval in the succeeding year, consequently an observation was made every day within the period.

Silver City, the county seat of Grant County, is situated in a 'draw' at an altitude of about 5,300 feet. It is surrounded by low foothills that were once covered with juniper and scrub oak, but they have long since been denuded by the merciless Mexican woodcutter. Now, the hills lie bare and brown, save here and there for an oasis of 'cholla' cacti or a group of yuccas, and afford scant shelter for bird life. The principal streets of the city are lined with cottonwoods, and many of the residents make a pretence at gardening. This brings some few species into the town, but the scarcity of water and lack of reservoirs keep those that are less confiding at a distance.

Perhaps the most favorable location is at Coleman's Ranch, distant about three miles, which contains the only original timber within eight miles. From Pinos Altos north and just inside the limits of these radii, there is still mile upon mile of pine forest. But this is the nearest heavy timber. Coleman's Ranch has a fenced area of 320 acres, and part of it is thickly wooded with juniper, piñon, scrub oak, and smaller brushwood. The remaining part (and larger half) is mostly open country, but here and there are places well covered with cacti and yuccas. There are two small reservoirs for irrigation purposes, shaded by cottonwoods and about two acres of orchard.

The climatic conditions are very similar to those of other points in the Southwest of equal altitude, cold nights and warm days predominating, somewhat modified in summer by cool nights and hot days. During the two winters mentioned, the thermometer only twice registered so low as seven degrees at Coleman's Ranch. The winter of 1904-5 was unusually mild and wet and was a winter of disastrous floods. The oldest inhabitants had never known a season like it. There was so much water on the plains that birds were not forced to come about the reservoirs as they had been the preceding year, the effect being that species appearing as abundant one year were only casually noted the next winter. Usually the rainfall is very light and almost wholly confined to the summer months.

Before bringing this introduction to a close, I feel I must again thank John E. Coleman and 'Doom' Coleman for their assistance in many instances; not only while I was a guest at their ranch, but as well when hunting with them in the surrounding mountain ranges. They were both untiring in their efforts to help me add new species to my daily check-list.

Following is a list of species recorded:

1. **Mareca americana.** BALDPATE.— One shot on Coleman's Ranch, April 15.
2. **Nettion carolinensis.** GREEN-WINGED TEAL.— Common during winter and spring months.
3. **Querquedula cyanoptera.** CINNAMON TEAL.— A common spring migrant.
4. **Ardea herodias.** GREAT BLUE HERON.— One shot May 1, two seen March 21, Coleman's Ranch.

5. *Oxyechus vociferus*. KILLDEER.— Common, arriving March 20.
6. *Callipepla squamata*. SCALED PARTRIDGE.— Common. Preferring the open country to the timber. Covies of from thirty to ninety birds are not uncommon on the plains below Silver City.
7. *Lophortyx gambelii*. GAMBEL'S PARTRIDGE.— As common as the preceding species both on the plains and in the timber. A covey of about fifty birds regularly wintered in Coleman's pasture and during very cold weather, after a fall of snow, it was not unusual for them to feed near the house with the chickens.
8. *Columba fasciata*. BAND-TAILED PIGEON.— Although an abundant bird in the mountain ranges north of Silver City, I have never seen it within the ten mile radius. However, during the summer of 1904, Mr. Coleman wrote me that the wooded section of his pasture was alive with them. It was some time in August, and they remained several days regardless of the fact that they were repeatedly shot.
9. *Zenaidura macroura*. MOURNING DOVE.— Common everywhere. A few remain throughout the winter in sheltered localities.
10. *Cathartes aura*. TURKEY VULTURE.— Common. Arriving March 25, leaving in October.
11. *Circus hudsonius*. MARSH HAWK.— Not uncommon at Coleman's Ranch, especially during the fall months.
12. *Accipiter velox*. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.— Common resident.
13. *Accipiter cooperi*. COOPER'S HAWK.— I saw but one specimen which was brought to me from the Diamond Bar Ranch.
14. *Accipiter atricapillus*. AMERICAN GOSHAWK.— Found a dead goshawk in the Mimbres Mountains in midwinter. I saw another specimen in Silver City at a local taxidermist's shop. I was told it had been killed near the town.
15. *Buteo borealis calurus*. WESTERN REDTAIL.— This is the commonest hawk of the country. There is hardly a day when they are not seen soaring over the city and surrounding plains. It breeds regularly on Coleman's Ranch.
16. *Archibuteo ferrugineus*. FERRUGINOUS ROUGH-LEG.— Not uncommon on the plains below Silver City. On January 25, I picked up a dead bird of this species near Coleman's Ranch; again on March 30 I noticed three or four at one time circling over the plain.
17. *Aquila chrysaetos*. GOLDEN EAGLE.— Occasionally seen near Silver City during the fall, winter, and spring months. Common in the mountains.
18. *Falco richardsoni*. RICHARDSON'S MERLIN.— One specimen killed on Coleman's Ranch and three others seen; all in midwinter.
19. *Falco sparverius phalœna*. DESERT SPARROW HAWK.— A very common resident, although less common in winter.
20. *Strix pratincola*. BARN OWL.— One was shot by J. E. Coleman on September 2. This owl appeared for several nights flying about the house. No others were seen.

21. **Asio wilsonianus**. AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.— Five seen on January 18, and one on January 21, on the ranch.

22. **Megascops asio cineraceus**. MEXICAN SCREECH OWL.— Common resident.

23. **Bubo virginianus pallescens**. WESTERN HORNED OWL.— Common resident. One nest that I discovered about two miles north of Silver City contained two downy young. This was on April 20.

24. **Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa**. BURROWING OWL.— Locally common. One colony, about four miles east of Silver City, composed of some three or four owls. Further south on the plain they are quite often seen.

25. **Geococcyx californianus**. ROAD-RUNNER.— Common resident.

26. **Ceryle alcyon**. BELTED KINGFISHER.— A few seen during the spring and fall months. Not common.

27. **Dryobates villosus hyloscopus**. CABANIS'S WOODPECKER.— Rather common on Coleman's Ranch throughout the months recorded.

28. **Dryobates scalaris bairdi**. TEXAN WOODPECKER.— Very common resident.

29. **Sphyrapicus varius nuchalis**. RED-NAPE SAPSUCKER.— Fairly common about Silver City during the winter and spring.

30. **Sphyrapicus thyroideus**. WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER.— Two specimens were taken on Coleman's Ranch March 22. In April of the same year, I noticed this handsome woodpecker in the Mimbres Range at an altitude of 8,000 feet.

31. **Melanerpes formicivorus**. ANT-EATING WOODPECKER.— A common resident from Piños Altos north.

32. **Asyndesmus torquatus**. LEWIS'S WOODPECKER.— This woodpecker is probably locally common throughout Grant County, but I have only noticed it near Pinos Altos, where it is to be found in small flocks.

33. **Colaptes cafer collaris**. RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.— Common resident.

34. **Tyrannus verticalis**. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.— Common during spring migration after April 12, but rapidly gives place to the following species.

35. **Tyrannus vociferans**. CASSIN'S KINGBIRD.— Arrives a few days later than *verticalis*. A common summer resident, nesting in the town and in the country. Leaves for the south about October 10.

36. **Myiarchus cinerascens**. ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER.— Arrives about May 6. Collected one specimen on that day, and several others were seen later.

37. **Sayornis saya**. SAY'S PHOEBE.— Common resident, though less common in winter.

38. **Sayornis nigricans**. BLACK PHOEBE.— A migrant during March and April; not common.

39. **Empidonax wrightii**. WRIGHT'S FLYCATCHER.— Arrives about April 15. Common during the remainder of the month. Five seen on May 4.

40. *Pyrocephalus rubineus mexicanus*. VERMILION FLYCATCHER.— Arrives April 15 and frequently seen till April 29. Also noted on September 29.
41. *Otocoris alpestris occidentalis*. Abundant throughout the year.
42. *Cyanocitta stelleri diademata*. LONG-CRESTED JAY.— Common about Pinos Altos.
43. *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*. WOODHOUSE'S JAY.— Very common resident about Silver City.
44. *Aphelocoma sieberii arizonæ*. ARIZONA JAY.— Common resident.
45. *Corvus corax sinuatus*. AMERICAN RAVEN.— Casual.
46. *Corvus cryptoleucus*. WHITE-NECKED RAVEN.— Resident. Sometimes in immense flocks.
47. *Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*. PIÑON JAY.— Abundant during fall migration in September. A few winter near Pinos Altos.
48. *Molothrus ater*. COWBIRD.— Casual in spring.
49. *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.— Fairly common during spring and fall migrations. Sometimes common in Silver City streets in winter.
50. *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*. NORTHERN RED-WING.— Common winter visitant in Silver City streets.
51. *Sturnella magna neglecta*. WESTERN MEADOWLARK.— Winters about Silver City in large numbers.
52. *Icterus parisorum*. SCOTT'S ORIOLE.— A specimen was sent to me from Coleman's Ranch in August. It is probably a summer resident.
53. *Icterus cucullatus nelsoni*. ARIZONA HOODED ORIOLE.— Arrives April 13, and was common till I left on May 6.
54. *Icterus bullocki*. BULLOCK'S ORIOLE.— Arrives April 30, common May 6.
55. *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.— Common from September 1 to May 6.
56. *Hesperiphona vespertina montanus*. WESTERN EVENING GROSBEAK.— These birds were first noted on February 18, 1905, when a flock of thirty were seen feeding on maple tree buds in Silver City. From this time on they were in evidence daily, and on March 5 the number was augmented by at least thirty more. This flock of sixty continued with us till March 29, the last date on which they were seen.
57. *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*. HOUSE FINCH.— Abundant resident.
58. *Passer domesticus*. HOUSE SPARROW.— By no means a common bird, but as many as five have been seen in Silver City at one time; it is quite certain the sparrow has arrived to stay awhile.
59. *Spinus pinus*. PINE SISKIN.— I have noted the siskin every month in the year except June, July and August; at no time were they common near Silver City.
60. *Calcarius ornatus*. CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.— Abundant during the winter months on the plains. They leave for the north about April 1.

61. *Poœcetes gramineus confinis*. WESTERN VESPER SPARROW.— A common bird from September 19 to April 30. Probably most of them breed north of here. During severely cold weather they become scarce, but a few, at least, are to be found every winter month.

62. *Chondestes grammacus strigatus*. WESTERN LARK SPARROW.— Arrives April 19 and becomes very common by May 6.

63. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.— An abundant winter visitant, leaving for the north about May 1.

64. *Spizella socialis arizonæ*. WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.— Common resident.

65. *Junco hyemalis connectens*. SHUFELDT'S JUNCO.— Abundant winter visitant. Seen as late as April 18.

66. *Junco mearnsi*. PINK-SIDED JUNCO.— An equally abundant winter visitant. Seen as late as April 18.

67. *Junco caniceps*. GRAY-HEADED JUNCO.— Fairly common winter visitant. Seen as late as May 6.

68. *Amphispiza bilineata deserticola*. DESERT SPARROW.— Very common summer resident. A few winter on the cactus-covered plains.

69. *Amphispiza belli nevadensis*. SAGE SPARROW.— Winter visitant. Seen in small numbers between December 28 and March 1.

70. *Melospiza lincolni*. LINCOLN'S SPARROW.— Migrant about October 23, and between March 11 and April 15.

71. *Pipilo maculatus arcticus*. ARCTIC TOWHEE.— Common winter visitant. Seen as late as April 22.

72. *Pipilo fuscus mesoleucus*. CAÑON TOWHEE.— Abundant resident.

73. *Oreospiza chlorura*. GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE.— Common summer resident from April 12 to October 2.

74. *Zamelodia melanocephala*. BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK.— Arrives from the south May 6.

75. *Calamospiza melanocorys*. LARK BUNTING.— Common from October 2 to May 6.

76. *Piranga ludoviciana*. LOUISIANA TANAGER.— Arrives about April 30 as a transient.

77. *Progne subis*. PURPLE MARTIN.— Noted martins in Silver City between May 29 and June 18; it is evidently a common summer resident.

78. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.— Common summer resident, arriving in April.

79. *Hirundo erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.— Common summer resident, arriving April 21.

80. *Tachycineta thalassina lepida*. VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW.— This lovely swallow reaches Silver City about April 23, and becomes a common migrant by the first of May.

81. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*. WHITE-RUMPED SHRIKE.— Common resident.

82. *Vireo gilvus*. WARBLING VIREO.— Arrives from the south about May 4.

83. *Helminthophila virginæ*. VIRGINIA'S WARBLER.—As a migrant, it is common between April 19 and April 29 on Coleman's Ranch.

84. *Helminthophila celata*. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER.—A common migrant between April 18 and May 6.

85. *Dendroica æstiva sonorana*. SONORA YELLOW WARBLER.—Common after April 30.

86. *Dendroica auduboni*. AUDUBON'S WARBLER.—Abundant as a migrant from April 17 to May 6.

87. *Dendroica nigrescens*. BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER.—Common migrant April 18 to May 6.

88. *Sieurus noveboracensis notabilis*. GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH.—Two specimens recorded from Coleman's Ranch on May 6, 1904.

89. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT.—A common migrant from April 13 to May 6.

90. *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata*. PILEOLATED WARBLER.—Abundant as a migrant from April 16 to May 6.

91. *Oroscoptes montanus*. SAGE THRASHER.—Rather common as a migrant during April; some remain throughout the winter months.

92. *Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. WESTERN MOCKINGBIRD.—Very common summer resident.

93. *Toxostoma curvirostre*. CURVED-BILLED THRASHER.—An abundant summer resident; a few winter on the plains.

94. *Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi*. CACTUS WREN.—Common resident, though less common in winter.

95. *Salpinctes obsoletus*. ROCK WREN.—Resident. Nesting in rock crevices near the Silver City railway station.

96. *Catherpes mexicanus conspersus*. CAÑON WREN.—The Cañon Wren visits Silver City in midwinter and is heard singing from the house-tops. However, it is not common south of the Pinos Altos country.

97. *Thryomanes bewickii leucogaster*. BAIRD'S WREN.—I have shot this wren on Coleman's Ranch in January and in May, so I presume they are resident; they are at no time common.

98. *Troglodytes ædon aztecus*. WESTERN HOUSE WREN.—Arrives about April 28 and becomes quite common by May 6.

99. *Certhia familiaris montana*. ROCKY MOUNTAIN CREEPER.—Casually met with in the Pinos Altos country.

100. *Sitta carolinensis aculeata*. SLENDER-BILLED NUTHATCH.—Abundant from Pinos Altos north. Casual on Coleman's Ranch.

101. *Sitta pygmæa*. PYGMY NUTHATCH.—Abundant at Pinos Altos but I have never seen them at Coleman's Ranch.

102. *Bæolophus inornatus griseus*. GRAY TITMOUSE.—Common resident.

103. *Bæolophus wollweberi*. BRIDLED TITMOUSE.—Rather rare; only found north of Pinos Altos.

104. *Parus gambeli*. MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE.—Casual at Coleman's Ranch; abundant near Pinos Altos.

105. *Psaltriparus plumbeus*. LEAD-COLORED BUSH-TIT.— Abundant about Silver City during fall, winter, and spring.
106. *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.— Abundant migrant and common winter visitant throughout the country.
107. *Polioptila cærulea obscura*. WESTERN GNATCATCHER.— Casual on Coleman's Ranch in April and May.
108. *Myadestes townsendii*. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE.— Rather rare in the Pinos Altos country.
109. *Hylocichla guttata auduboni*. AUDUBON'S HERMIT THRUSH.— Arriving from the south about May 6.
110. *Merula migratoria propinqua*. WESTERN ROBIN.— Common as a migrant during March and April. The Western Robin breeds abundantly in the mountains north of Pinos Altos.
111. *Sialia mexicana bairdi*. CHESTNUT-BACKED BLUEBIRD.— Very common migrant and winter resident, October 1 to April 10.
112. *Sialia arctica*. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD.— Common resident.
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CONCERNING THE THICK-BILLED PARROT.

BY W. H. BERGTOLD.

THE writer spent several weeks in the fall of 1903 and 1904 in northern Mexico, camped in the Sierra Madra Mountains. The first visit was to the region west of Cases Grandes, wherein are located various Mormon colonies, beginning at Colonia Dublan in the east, and ending at Chuichupa in the west, all on the Gulf side of the Sierra Madra watershed. It was in this region that Mr. Wilmot W. Brown discovered and collected the Thick-billed Parrot's (*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) eggs mentioned by Mr. Thayer in his notes on pages 223 and 224 of 'The Auk' of April, 1906.

This bird is increasingly common from Chuichupa southward, and was especially an everyday sight during the trip, in 1904, to the mountains west of Parral. And, being so common, it was a matter of considerable surprise to notice that Mr. Thayer speaks of his specimens as "among the first, if not the first eggs of this bird